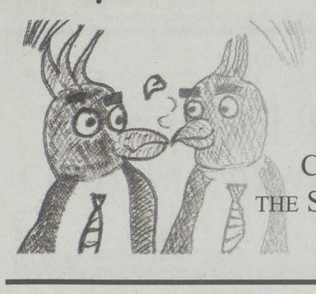
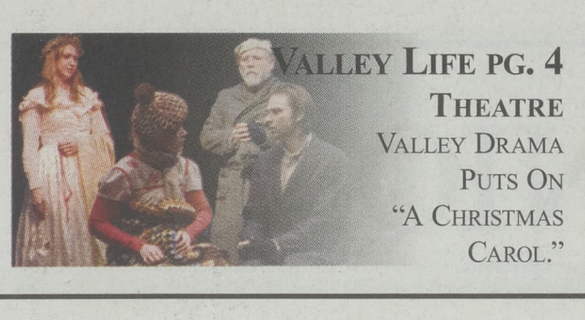
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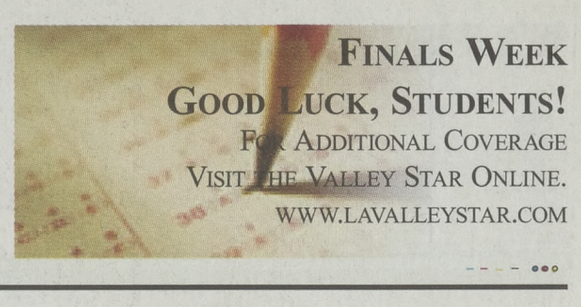
OPINION PG. 2
"HAPPY" FEET
CONTROVERSY OVER CHILDREN'S FILM AND THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF ITS CHARACTERS.



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
THEATRE
VALLEY DRAMA PUTS ON "A CHRISTMAS CAROL."



GALLERY
SEEING DOUBLE
LOS ANGELES DENZIENS PAIR UP AND HEAD OUT.



FINALS WEEK
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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 65, ISSUE NO. 10 | DECEMBER 13, 2006 | *HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*

Valley Giving Spirit Surges

BY JESSICA SHAFFER
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students have many opportunities to show their compassion during the holiday season by donating to charity drives run by various organizations on campus, like the P.E.S.S.A. food drive, the ASU gift campaign for Penny Lane, and the Hurricane Katrina Fund.

The Pre-Medical Engineering Science Scholars Association or P.E.S.S.A. is holding a food and fund drive until Dec. 15 and their proceeds are going to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank to feed needy families.

"My family has always had food on the table and I can't imagine what that would be like to have circumstances occur where... I'm starving or unable to provide," said P.E.S.S.A. Secretary Leah Bassoni. "I just think it's important to look out for people now because you never know what situation you're going to be in in the future."

This is the club's first food drive and according to Bassoni, it has been a great success so far.

P.E.S.S.A. had bins all over campus to collect canned goods. Now their bins are all located in the Life Sciences building since they have had such an overflow of food. If students want to donate to the food drive they should go to the Life Sciences Building and leave the food in the bins.

Students can also donate to the ASU for the non-profit organization Penny Lane, which gives gifts to abandoned, abused, and neglected children. The ASU is collecting the gifts for children 6-18 years old until Dec. 15.

ASU Vice President Jonathan Oskins, who has been involved with Penny Lane said, "[The gifts] do not always even have to be a toy. It could be a journal [or] a book. It's a gift; not necessarily a toy."

The gifts need to be new and they will not accept anything sharp or products with alcohol. After they collect the gifts, the ASU then wraps them with members of Penny Lane before giving them to the children.

Those students who wish to donate can drop off their gifts at any of the donation boxes located throughout campus or they can drop them off in the ASU office.

For those students who wish to contribute to charities year-round, the Hurricane Katrina Fund is sending students to New Orleans in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity this spring.

"[People should donate] because it's still an issue that's going on now," said committee member Karen Linares. "There's still many families down there that are still misplaced. There are a lot of homes that need to be

see *'Giving'* page 3

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



ALEX FAYVIL /VALLEY STAR

INTO THE LIGHT - Ebenezer Scrooge (Addison Randall) is shown the error of his ways in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" by the Ghost of Christmas Present (Alex Saavedra) at the Valley College Horseshoe Theatre.

ASU Starts Slow, Preps for Spring

BY MARTIN RUIZ
STAFF WRITER

This year's ASU started slowly with eight vacant positions at the beginning of the fall semester. Despite this the ASU pulled off numerous successful events, including a helpful push to lower tuition to $20 a unit; and they plan much more for the spring semester such as a student-ambassador program, which will help orient new students to Valley College.

The positions of treasurer, chief justice, parliamentarian, ethnic/cultural affairs, and public relations weren't filled until three weeks into the semester; ICC representative and secretary were filled in mid-October; and the campus/environmental affairs position was filled last month.

"It slowed us down and put more work on the other [officers]," said Associate Dean of Student Services Sherri Rodriguez, explaining how they were able to function with only about half the board filled. "They did a great job of keeping all the events moving along. They've been very flexible."

Rodriguez, who oversees the ASU Executive Council, also said the officers have done a good job of coming together and picking up where last year's ASU left off. In comparing last year's ASU President Nelli Martirosian with current President Narine Jugharyan.

"Last year's ASU was strongly defined by the president," said Jugharyan. "Nelli's leadership style was unique ... Narine's more of a consensus-builder. It's a different vibe, but different in a good way."

Some of the accomplishments Jugharyan described this term

see *'ASU'* page 3

Bolivian Movie Touches Students

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The horrors of child labor left a powerful impression on Valley College students who packed into a classroom Dec. 7 to watch "The Devil's Miner," the second film in a fall 2006 series focusing on the controversial subject.

S.T.A.R.S. (Strategic Team for the Advancement and Retention of Students) and the child development department organized the showing, with Spanish Professor Rafael Arias introducing and speaking about the poignant movie's importance.

"It's important to make people aware of the child labor problem ... and to understand the struggles of other cultures," said Arias. "The movie impacted me so much that I decided to make it part of my Spanish 3 curriculum."

Set in the 15,000-foot mountains of Potosi, the city with the highest altitude in Bolivia, the film told the story of 14-year-old Basilio Vargas and his 12-year-old younger brother Bernardino, whose lives revolve around deadly work in the dangerous silver mines of Cerro Rico Mountain.

Cerro Rico – Spanish for Rich Pinnacle – is known as the "mountain that eats men alive" and is said to have caused more than eight million miners' deaths in its more than 450 years of use.

"It was very informative on third-world nations and the way the indigenous class [in Bolivia] is treated," said math major Ulises Marquez. "[The film] raised my awareness on the differences people in poverty face."

Originally exploited by Spain during its 16th century colonization of Bolivia, the once silver-rich mines are nearly depleted of all their former wealth. Despite this fact, they are a home for nearly 5,000 mineworkers, including about 800 children, struggling to make a living looking for valuable minerals.

The harsh working conditions the young boys face in the mines stunned many of the students and teachers in attendance, opening their eyes to the chilling day to day reality awaiting victims of child labor.

"I thought it was a very powerful film," said Spanish Professor Librada Hernandez. "It really shocks you to see that you're in the 21st century and this is still going on in the world ... while we complain about paying $20 or writing papers, these type of things are going on."

FINALS SCHEDULE

All evening classes (3:30 p.m. or later) will have their final exam as follows:

Monday Class:	**December 18**
Tuesday Class:	**December 19**
Wednesday Class:	**December 20**
Thursday Class:	**December 21**
Friday Class:	**December 15**

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY December 18			TUESDAY December 19		
Time of Exam	6:30 - 8:30	9:30 - 11:30	12:30 - 2:30	6:30 - 8:30	9:30 - 11:30	12:30 - 2:30
Class Schedule	6:30 - 7:55 MW 6:45 - 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 - 10:50 MTWTh 9:40 - 11:05 MW 9:40-10:55 MWF	1:00 - 2:10 MTWTh 1:00 - 2:25 MW 1:00 - 2:15 MWF	6:30 - 7:55 TTh	9:40 - 11:05 TTh 9:40 - 10:55 TThF	1:00 - 2:25 TTh 1:00 - 2:15 TThF
Day and Date Of Final Exam	**WEDNESDAY December 20**			**THURSDAY December 21**		
Time of Exam	8:00 - 10:00	10:30 - 12:30	1:00 - 3:00	8:00 - 10:00	10:30 - 12:30	1:00 - 3:00
Class Schedule	8:15 - 9:25 MTWTh 8:00 - 9:25 MW 8:00 - 9:15 MWF	11:20 - 12:30 MTWTh 11:20 - 12:45 MW 11:20 - 12:35 MWF	2:20 - 3:30 MTWTh 2:40 - 4:05 MW	8:00 - 9:25 TTh 8:00 - 9:15 TThF	11:20 - 12:45 TTh 11:20 - 12:35 TThF	1:45 - 3:10 TTh 1:45 - 3:00 TThF

OPINION

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com*

AN OPINION

Pack of Dancing Penguins Wage War on America's Children

BY KRISTEN BECKER
STAFF WRITER

"Happy Feet," an animated movie about singing and dancing penguins, has joined SpongeBob SquarePants and the Teletubbies in the illustrious group of children's entertainment that has ignited the ire of conservatives. Although the film has been accused of positively representing the gay lifestyle, its most serious crime is addressing environmental issues like over fishing in Antarctica and pollution.

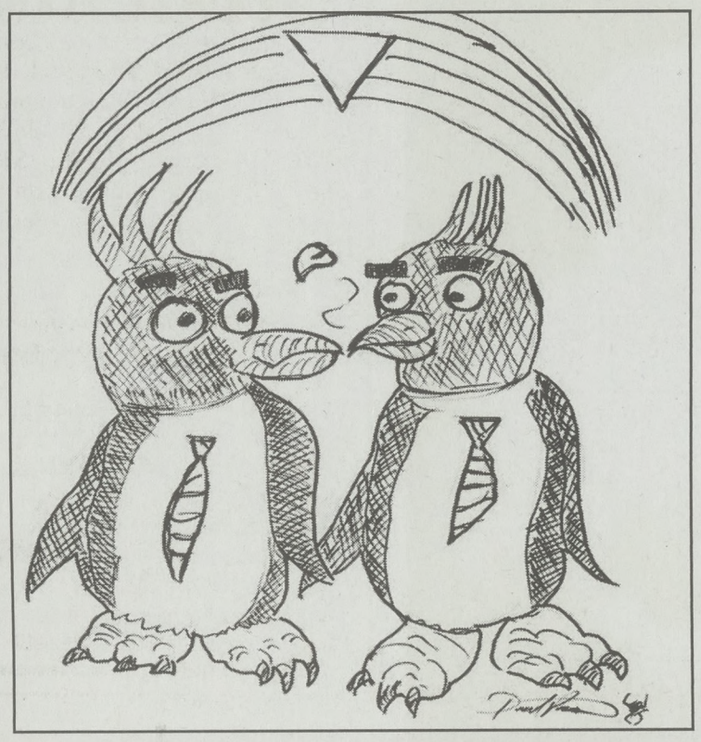


ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL PARRA / VALLEY STAR

Conservatives need to learn to choose their battles. With all the genuinely disgraceful things taking place, such as rampant poverty, genocide in Darfur and war, it is ridiculous that any group would protest a film that does nothing more than inform its audience while entertaining them with cute, dancing penguins.

In the film, the penguins encounter a famine of sorts because humans are taking all their fish and also suffer because of the human tendency to pollute our environment. The film seeks to teach its young audience – and their parents – that our actions have consequences, not only for ourselves, but also for the other living creatures around us.

In the end, humans, when made aware of the adverse effects of their actions (by the penguins' dancing, of course), they take action and change their ways thus enabling the penguins and humans to live in harmony.

When asked about the environmentalist message, director and producer George Miller said, "One thing I realized about Antarctica and the penguins is you cannot tell that story without getting into basically how we're affecting the planet . . . And it's such a precarious existence there, that if you shift it just a little bit then suddenly it's all changing for everybody." The fact is that this type of message is one that needs to be heard by everyone. Humans have a huge impact on the earth and we need to accept that and try to change our lifestyles. Although this concept of all life being connected is one that is needed in these days of extreme fossil fuel consumption and rampant pollution, there are some on the right who are up in arms over this message.

Glenn Beck, a conservative host on CNN Headline News, claimed that "Happy Feet" was a piece of environmentalist propaganda and was simply "an animated version of 'An Inconvenient Truth.'"

I didn't understand the animosity on the right toward Al Gore's movie and I don't understand the animosity toward "Happy Feet." Why has protecting the environment become such a partisan issue?

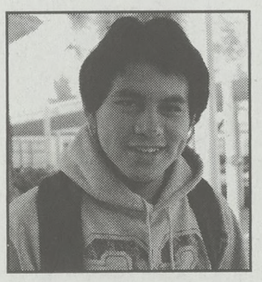
Yes, "Happy Feet" has a message about taking care of the environment, but every children's film ever made has had some sort of message to teach its audience. Shouldn't children be taught these kinds of lessons? Shouldn't they learn that it's OK to be different or that they should try to follow their dreams? Shouldn't they learn that we humans have a responsibility to protect the environment?

In the end, this film is a harmless movie about penguins who like to sing and dance. While it does have an underlying message talking about conservation, it is just a movie. Bob Thompson of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University summed up the affect of this film perfectly: "Of the 50,000 things affecting America's youth in negative ways today, I don't think the penguin movie is probably on that 50,000."

Campus View

PHOTOS BY DANIEL KANE / TEXT BY WILL REYES

Do you think animated children's movies should touch on serious social issues?



"Yes, people need to just not take it so seriously."

Louie Hernandez
Respiratory Therapy



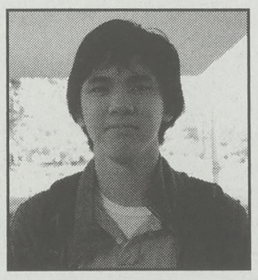
"Yes, children should know what is going on in the world."

Ayako Mizuno
Broadcasting



"Yes, children need to be aware that serious issues are going on in the world."

Kris Dangallo
Nursing



"No, because [the movie] is for kids. Social issues should only be in movies for adults."

Steven Papa
Nursing

Fall 2006 Semester's Best Editorial Cartoons

Nov. 15, "Big Brother Focuses on Valley"

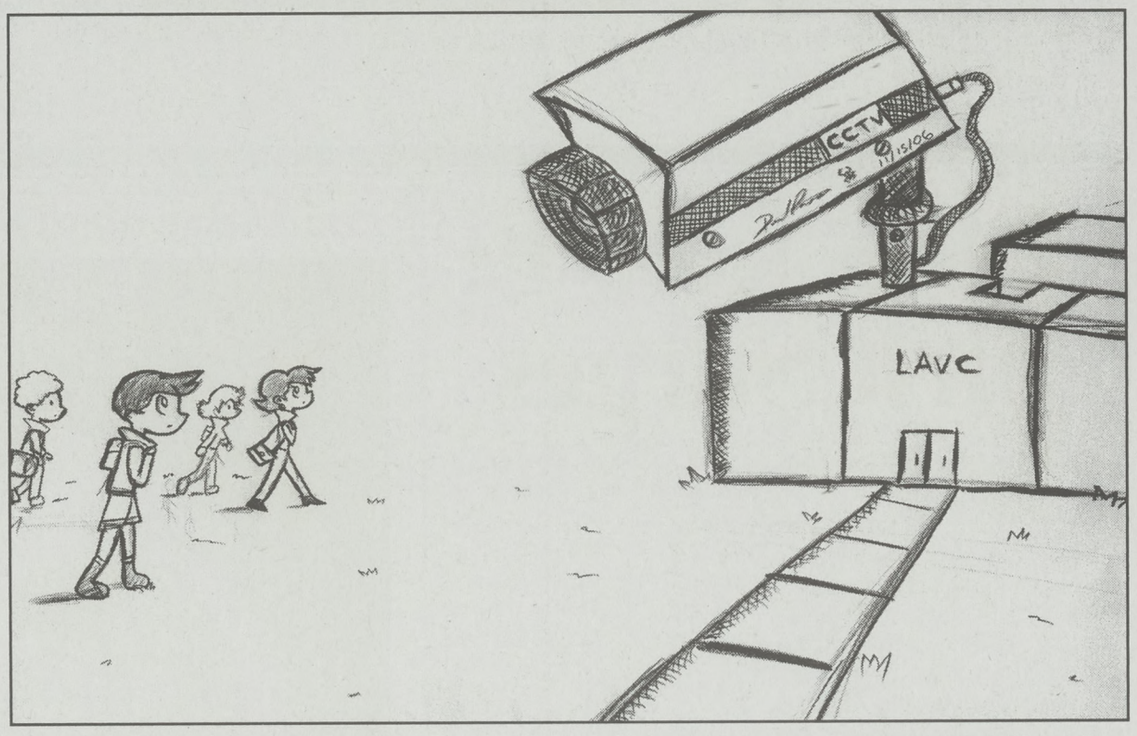


ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL PARRA / VALLEY STAR

Nov. 22, "The Pledge of Allegiance is Supposed to Unite, Not Divide

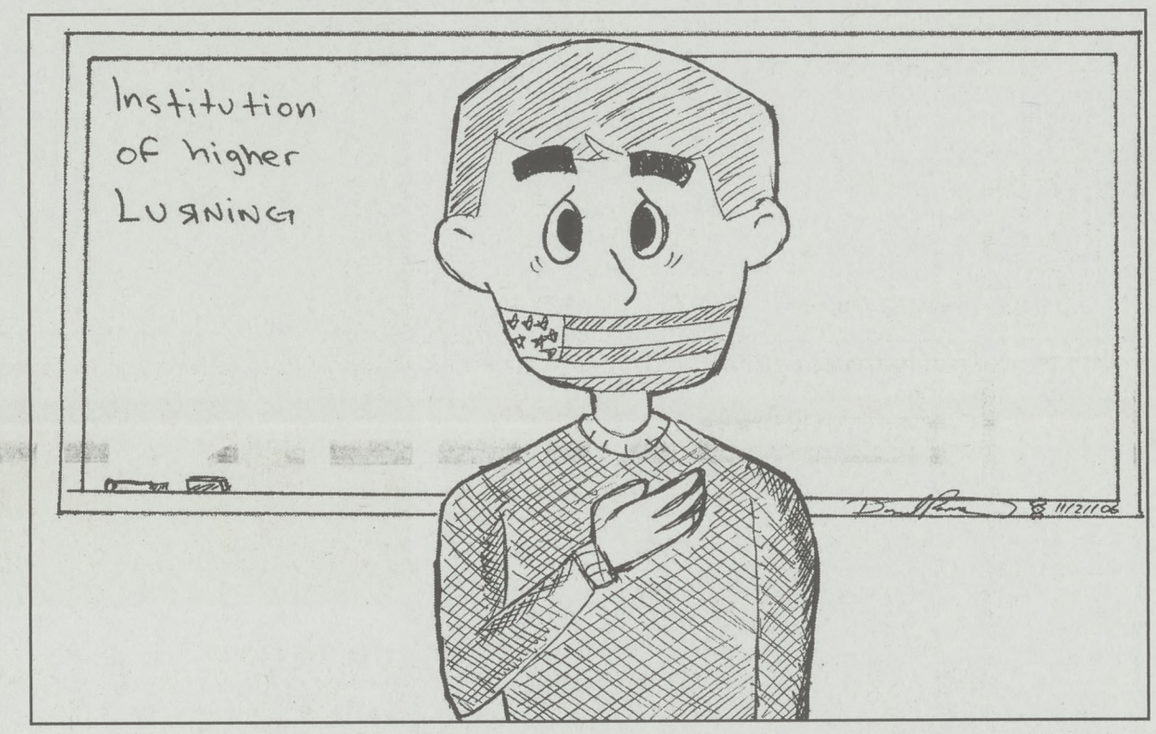


ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL PARRA / VALLEY STAR

AN OPINION

"Holiday" Greetings Leave Some in Uproar

BY KRISTEN BECKER
STAFF WRITER

Christmas is in danger of disappearing forever, according to many right-wing Christians. Take no notice of the fact that you cannot escape the lights, decorated trees and Santa Clauses or the fact that you are bombarded by Christmas carols every time you leave the house. According to people like FOX News anchor John Gibson, Christmas is at the top of the endangered holiday list.

In his book "The War on Christmas: How the Liberal Plot to Ban the Sacred Christian Holiday is Worse Than You Thought," Gibson claims, "literally any sign of Christmas in public can lead to complaints, litigation, angry protests, threats, and bruised feelings." I suppose Gibson just happened to forget about the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center or the one that sits outside the White House, which is lit during a ceremony every holiday season by the President of the United States.

Many on the religious right have this perception of themselves as victims because they must tolerate the presence of other religions. "The Jews get a menorah, a religious symbol that signifies a miracle, the Muslims get the star and crescent, which signifies the miracle of the prophet, and what do Christians get?" Gibson quoted Bill Donohue of the Catholic League. "A tree? Come on! Christians want the real thing too. We want the créche, which signifies the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ."

Interestingly enough, Donohue fails to mention what the use of an evergreen tree actually means. While it was originally a pagan tradition, Christianity has attributed the tree with its own meaning. According to my religion teachers in elementary school, the fact that the Christmas tree is an evergreen signifies the resurrection of Jesus because it stays green all year, even in the dead of winter and the star that traditionally is placed on the top of the tree represents the star that rose to announce the birth of Jesus.

"Christianity is the religion of the majority of Americans who practice a religion and because of that, our society caters to Christian holidays."

Christianity is the religion of the majority of Americans who practice a religion and because of that, our society caters to Christian holidays. Stores carry Christmas decorations and various other Christmas-related objects. Most cities large and small have a Christmas tree on display and have holiday or Christmas parades that feature Santa Claus. Shopping malls and department stores are decked out in green and red and often have Santa available for pictures. Christians have all this and yet the religious right gets riled up when there is even the smallest attempt on the part of local governments to show respect toward members of other religions by being inclusive.

Is it so horrible that someone would not say "Merry Christmas" to someone they knew was a non-Christian? Rather than being perceived as an attack on religion, this should be seen as what it is – a sign of respect for the beliefs of a non-Christian. In this country, it is believed that everyone is allowed to worship their own god or to not worship at all; no one should feel like they are having someone else's religion forced upon them.

'ASU'

continued from page 1

included Latino Heritage Day, the Dean's Reception, and the Hurricane Katrina commemoration project.

An important issue for many students, which the ASU is working on, is lowering textbook fees. Silvia Jimenez, ASU officer of evening division, is in charge of that effort. "We passed a resolution, mostly guidelines, for the faculty to follow," she said. "Some of the guidelines include buying unbundled books without CD ROMS or supplemental materials we don't use. What we want is not to have to buy a book that's been revised and nothing has changed.

ICC Luis Alvarez especially wants to reach out to high school students. "When you're in high school, you don't hear a lot about the opportunities of community college," he said. "Some high school students don't even know what a syllabus is." In an effort to recruit high school students to Valley, he and four clubs visited nearby Grant High School in December.

Jugharyan said some of the upcoming events ASU has planned for spring include Black Heritage Celebration, Mardi Gras, Armenian Genocide Commemoration and International Fine Arts Day. They're already gearing up for spring elections.

Dr. Rodriguez is pleased with the work this ASU has done and plans to do for the upcoming semesters.

"We've got some really strong people in our group," she said. "We'll work over the break to finalize our goals for the remainder of the year. Overall, it's a good, powerful group that can accomplish a lot."

'Giving'

continued from page 1

rebuilt"

Linares continued," [It's important] to not forget in a sense and to continue bringing this issue up because it's not going to go away anytime soon."

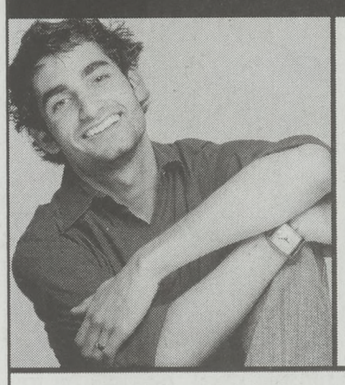
To donate to the Hurricane Katrina Fund, students should contact Assistant Professor of African American Studies Tara Lake or Assistant Dean of Student Services Sherri Rodriguez.

Choosing between charities can be a difficult task, but donating to an organization does not have to be a competition.

"I would really encourage [students] to give a little to everyone," Bassoni said. "Personally, I'm giving to both [Penny Lane and the food drive] and it's not really taking that much out of my pocket to do a little something. For $10 you can put a smile on a kid's face or you can feed a whole family."

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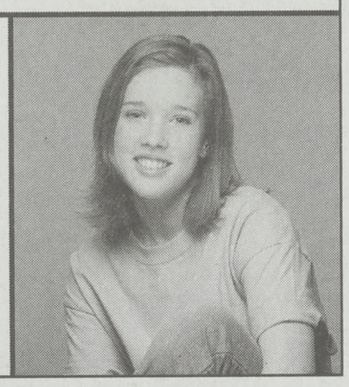
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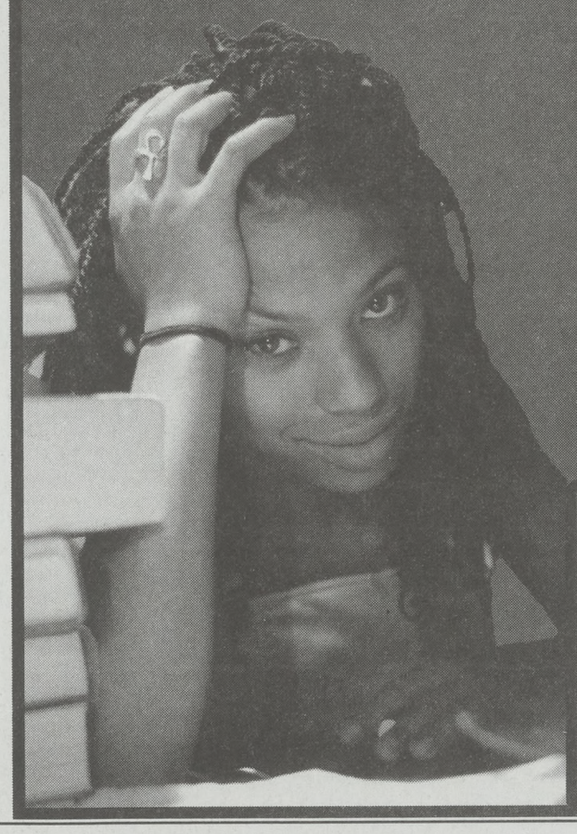
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WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Me First & the Gimmie Gimmies @ House of Blues Anaheim, 1530 South Disneyland Drive, Anaheim, CA, 92802; 9 p.m. $15

Peaches @ Avalon Hollywood, 1735 N Vine, Hollywood, CA, 90028; 9 p.m. $23.50

Thursday, Dec. 14

Vodka Latka: Festival of Rights; Golem, Heaping Hannukkah & DJ Anaan @ The El Rey Theatre, 5515 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036; 9 p.m. $12

Twisted Sister @ House of Blues Anaheim, 1530 South Disneyland Drive, Anaheim, CA, 92802; 7 p.m. $33

Friday, Dec. 15

A Christmas Carol @ Los Angeles Valley College's Horseshoe Theatre 8 p.m. $15 G.A., $ 10

The Slackers @ Troubadour, 9081 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069; 7 p.m. $15

Saturday, Dec. 16

A Christmas Carol @ Los Angeles Valley College's Horseshoe Theatre 8 p.m. $15 G.A., $ 10

Deck the Hall: 'Twas the Week Before Christmas; LA Phil, Mickelthwate @ Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012; 8 p.m. $39-135

Sunday, Dec. 17

Deck the Hall: 'Twas the Week Before Christmas; LA Phil, Mickelthwate @ Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012; 8 p.m. $39-135

Monday, Dec. 18

Guns N' Roses @ Gibson Amphitheatre at Universal CityWalk, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608; 7:30 p.m. $50-75

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Metal Skool @ Key Club, 9039 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90069 ; 6 p.m. $15

Otep @ Whisky, 8901 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90069; 7 p.m. $15

Senses Fail @ House of Blues Anaheim, 1530 South Disneyland Drive, Anaheim, CA, 92802; 6 p.m. $15.50-19

THEATER REVIEW

Theater Department Brings Christmas to Valley College

BY MARTIN A. RUIZ
STAFF WRITER

"Bah Humbug!"
It's that time of year to spread Christmas cheer,
but if you're in a yuletide brood,
Valley Theater presents the Scrooge.

When we think of Christmas there are certain timeless tales that have become tradition in the spirit of the season: "It's a Wonderful Life," "Miracle on 34th Street," and Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Valley College's Theater Department has put its own interesting spin on the latter with another spectacular production, adapted by drama department chair Pete Parkin and directed by Aaron Bronsal.

Most of us are familiar with the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the heartless old man who turns from the errors of his selfish ways when he's visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. In this modern rendition, the characters find a copy of "A Christmas Carol" and are about to burn it to keep warm. One of the characters objects and begins reading, as they all magically become characters in the story.

The atmosphere is the first striking thing you notice when you walk into the Horseshoe Theater. With smoke permeating the air, graffiti all around the walls, and homeless characters talking to audience members, it feels like you've stepped into the wrong place. It's so realistic you forget you're in a theater; yet at the same time, it's also surreal.

What's most impressive about the set is the resourceful use of props. Most productions of "A Christmas Carol" are elaborate stagings that require expensive scenery and sophisticated machinery to illustrate the mystical elements of ghosts, dreams and time travel. However, the most expensive props on this set are simple - most notably the inordinate number of milk crates that are hurriedly rearranged to change from one scene to the next.

In an artistically abstract decision of the director, the actors (most of whom play multiple roles) play many of the inanimate objects themselves. It is an ingenious way for a director on a limited budget to display his creative prowess.

There are a couple of song and dance numbers that break up the storytelling when it is on the verge of becoming too deep. The dance sequence is especially lively - a little techno, a little hip hop - and makes you want to get up and dance. It modernizes the play, bringing it out of the 19th century world in which it was written.

Addison Randall plays a feisty Scrooge, with a colorful cast of about 20 characters supporting him.

Comic relief is provided a few times when the actors deliberately break character; for example, one of the background players tells Randall he's doing a great job of playing Scrooge and then at intermission, the "Ghost of Intermission" wakes him from his dream.

The highlight of the hilarity is when the Ghost of Christmas Present comes riding majestically onstage in a shopping cart pushed by a homeless bum, wielding a toilet plunger for a scepter.

The cuteness of Tiny Tim, played by Anne Chavez, and the other child players when they speak, had the audience laughing as well.

The only annoying part is when some of the actors start pontificating as if they're characters in a Shakespeare play.

Originally a novel, "A Christmas Carol" has been adapted and interpreted for the stage and screen by numerous artists. Don't miss Valley's imaginative interpretation of this timeless tale.

"A Christmas Carol"

Valley College Horseshoe Theatre

Dec. 15, 16, 22, & 23 at 8 p.m.

General Admission: $15
Students: $10

Reservations: (818) 947-2790

Year-End Oscar Predictions

BY JOSHUA SPENCE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Lead Actor - Both Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio gave standout performances in "The Departed", but these roles were not career defining. Will Ferrell will receive a nomination for his role as IRS auditor Harold Crick in "Stranger Than Fiction;" However, he won't win because actors nominated for a comedy rarely do. This year's frontrunner would have to be Forrest Whitaker in his portrayal of Ugandan dictator, Idi Amin, in "The Last King of Scotland." To watch him switch from charismatic to psychotic and back again could be the work of his life.

Lead Actress - Dame Judi Dench gives another strong performance in "Notes on a Scandal" while Annette Benning shows a brilliant woman on the brink in "Running With Scissors." Beyoncé Knowles will earn a nomination simply because of the monumental buzz "Dreamgirls" is garnering even though Kate Winslet's performance in "Little Children" is more deserving. Helen Mirren's flawless portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II will secure her first Oscar win. Mirren was able to show the Queen's humanity amidst all the pomp and circumstance in her life.

Supporting Actor - This is easily the toughest category to win given the big performances and the even bigger stars. Steve Carrell's minimalist performance as Frank in "Little Miss Sunshine" is as painfully funny as it is brutally honest. Brad Pitt's performance in "Babel" shows the communication divide that exists in this world. If Eddie Murphy had devoted as much time to roles in more substantial movies like "Dreamgirls" instead of movies like"Daddy Day Care," no one would question that he would rank among the all time greats. Alan Arkin deserves an honorable mention for his portrayal of a heroin addicted, crotchety old man who is hell-bent on helping her granddaughter in "Little Miss Sunshine." Jack Nicholson's role as mob boss Frank Costello in "The Departed" will win him another academy award. He has a way of personifying pure evil.

Supporting Actress - Sharon Stone and Demi Moore were only a small part of the gigantic ensemble cast of "Bobby," but they may have also given the most emotional performances. Moore plays Virginia Fallon, a disconnected, aging lounge singer that spends her time drinking. Stone plays a disenfranchised manicurist who is staring down the barrel of old age. Art imitates life when the two talk about the brevity of youth. Though Moore's and Stone's performances were strong, Toni Collette is the most deserving of an Oscar this year for playing the mother, Sheryl, in "Little Miss Sunshine."

Animated - Perennial powerhouse Pixar should have this award locked up again with the movie "Cars," which features ever-innovative CGI and a fantastic script by genius John Lasseter. Dreamworks' "Over The Hedge" is giving Pixar a run for its money this year, which has comparable CGI work and a terrific script with even better voice over work. Honorable mention should go to Monster House for its stop motion camera work.

Best Picture - With social commentary films ("Syriana," "Brokeback Mountain," "Crash") and biographies ("Capote," "Walk the Line") dominating last year's Oscars, this year is a throwback to more conventional dramas. With its formidable star power and its end of deadline release date, "Dreamgirls" will earn a nomination. "United 93" and "World Trade Center" will both receive nominations for its homage to heroes and not the almighty dollar, cashing in on a catastrophe like "Pearl Harbor." Honorable mention should go to "Little Miss Sunshine" because it's the feel good movie of the year, as well as "Borat" for showing all of America's criticism and hypocrisy while making us laugh so hard that we cried. However, the real showdown will be between Robert Altman's "A Prairie Home Companion" and Martin Scorsese's "The Departed."

YEAR-END WRAP-UP

Top Five Albums of 2006

BY ELEARY S. NIXON
STAFF WRITER

As 2006 comes to a close, many of this year's singing acts were elevated atop music majesty. Music genres from country to rap blazed the Billboard charts. From new to seasoned artists, 2006 was a year of dreams coming true and divine rebirths.

Yet, only five albums stood out as the very best of 2006:

1

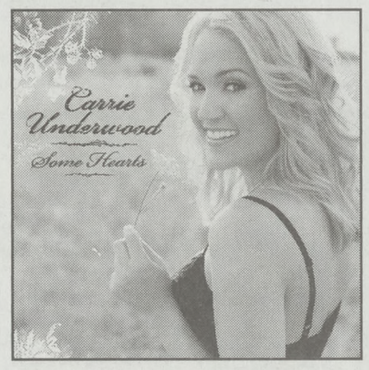
Mary J. Blige
"The Breakthrough"
Geffen Records



Mary, a 15-year veteran, weathered the storm and sits on top of her throne. Her latest album has sold three million copies and counting. She recently took home nine Billboard awards and has received a leading eight Grammy nominations, assuring Mary as the music industries true Queen of Hip-Hop and R&B. As if all this acclaim wasn't enough, Mary released another album on Dec. 12 entitled "Reflections -A Retrospective."

2

Carrie Underwood
"Some Hearts"
Arista Nashville



American Idol winner and country music's new sweetheart is picking up where Shania Twain left off. Carrie Underwood's debut album has been one of Billboard's top 20 albums during 2006 and has sold more than four-million copies. Underwood has recently taken home top country honors at the Country Music Awards, American Music Awards and Billboard Music Awards; and has been nominated for two Grammys.

3

Chris Brown
"Chris Brown"
Jive Records



Seventeen-year-old prince of R&B Chris Brown went double platinum and took the hearts of girls across the world. With the debut single "Run It" to latest ballad "Say Goodbye" toppled with infectious dance videos, the overly-talented Brown has spawned a fan craze which has propelled his album sales through the roof.

4

T.I.
"King"
Grand Hustle/Atlantic



Atlanta rapper T.I. was a rap-force to be reckoned with in 2006. "King" gave rap enthusiasts more than they could chew with his hit song 'What You Know." The song created a flood in radio station requests and has created an even bigger buzz in the music industry. T.I. took home five Billboard Music Awards and has been nominated for three individual Grammys including a nomination with Justin Timberlake for their collaboration on Timberlake's single 'My Love.'

5

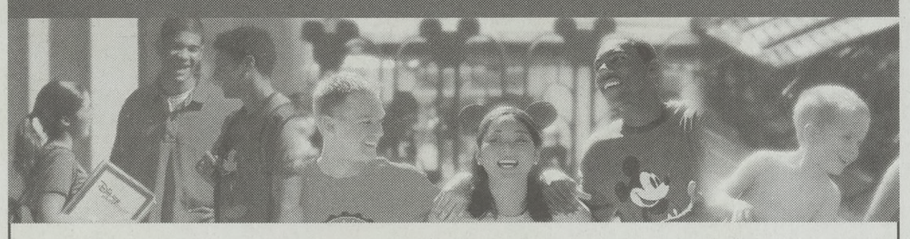
Justin Timberlake
"FutureSex/ LoveSounds"
Jive Records



Released in September 2006, Timberlake's sophomore album was able to transform from his noted R&B/Pop Michael Jackson-like flare into this mature sound that has not yet been given a genre. Justin's album has sold more than two million in less than three months. The success for Timberlake continues to rise as he has been on top of the Billboard charts since its release and has recently earned four Grammy nominations.

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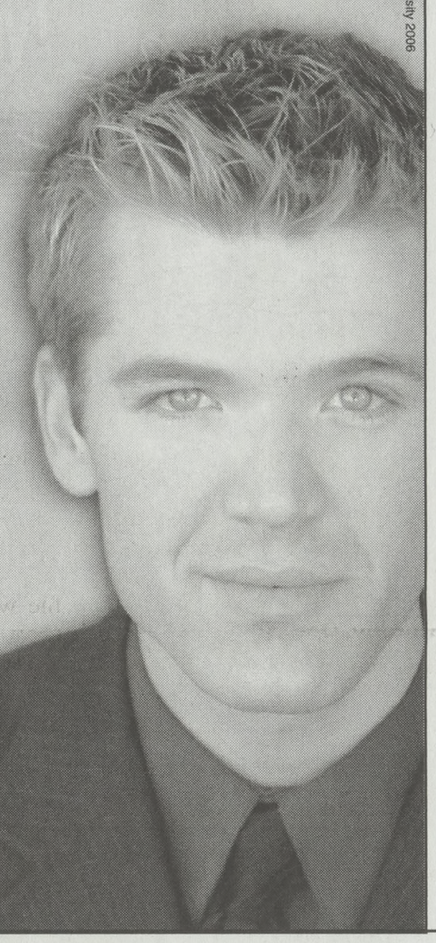
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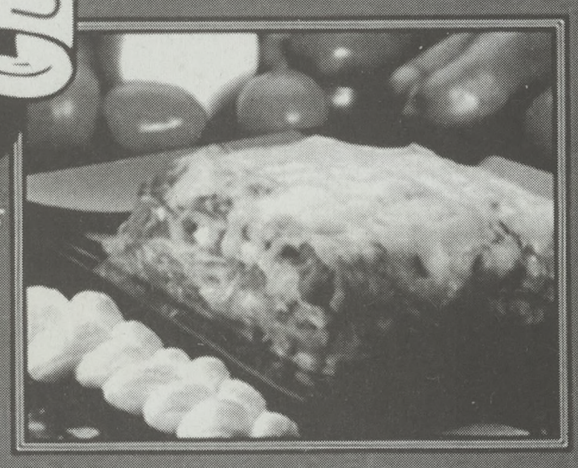
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GALLERY



DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

VIEW FROM THE TOP - The Getty Museum sits high above the 405 Freeway letting Los Angelinos get a breath of fresh air.

FRIENDS AND COUPLES

THROUGHOUT LOS ANGELES

Text and Layout by Daniel Kane

IN THE FURY OF LIST-MAKING AND GIFT-BUYING WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON FAST APPROACHING, VALLEY STAR PHOTOGRAPHERS DECIDED TO FOCUS OUR CAMERAS ON THAT WHICH TRULY MATTERS, SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.



DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

LIFE AS A PARTY - An open house Christmas party brought neighbors and friends together with food, drinks and music.



DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

YOUR MOVE - A group gathers in the main plaza of Chinatown to play while passers-by are turned into spectators.



ARTAK AYVAZYAN / VALLEY STAR

DANCERS IN THE DARK - A Southern California couple dances on the beach as the sun goes down.



DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

SUNSET STROLL - The Venice Canals in Venice Beach provide an excellent backdrop for an afternoon walk.